

Hence, this is a new distributional record from Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh. The voucher specimens have been deposited in R.R.C. (Ay.) Herbarium, Vijayawada (F. No. 3772, 12.xi.1998, near Pedda Manthanalamma area, Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh, coll. P. Dwarkan, Srinivasulu, Vasudeva Rao, Nagulu).

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41. ABNORMAL BRANCHING BEHAVIOUR OF WILD DATE PALM
PHOENIX SYLVESTRIS ROXB. (PALMAE)

During a survey of the forest areas of Deola Forest Range in Udaipur district, I came across a wild date palm (*Phoenix sylvestris* Roxb.) with abnormal branching. The tree was growing in an agricultural field, nearly 2 km away from Akyawar Forest Nursery, towards the western side on Udaipur-Sirohi Road. This young tree had 125 shoots of different sizes in the basal region. Nearly each leaf of the basal region had produced a shoot. These shoots looked like a circular fence around the main trunk. Basal leaves of all the surrounding shoots

had also produced several shoots. I am observing this tree since 1993, and it is still producing new shoots.

It is, perhaps, the wild date palm having the largest number of shoots in Rajasthan, and is hence worth placing on record.

June 14, 1999

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42. AN EFFECTIVE ETHNOBOTANICAL MEDICINE AGAINST HEMIPLAGIA

This article deals with the ethnobotanical use of three medicinally important plants used by the local *vaidya* of Khatana village against the dreaded disease hemiplegia, i.e. paralysis.

Khatana village lies in Dharampur taluka, Valsad district, south Gujarat, on the northwest side of the Western Ghats (20° 5' N; 73° 7' E). It is about 8 km away from Dharampur on its east.

The plants used are as under:

(1) *Moringa concanensis* Lam.

Local name: Kadvo Saragvo

Family: Moringaceae

It is a tall tree with a rough, greyish-brown trunk.

Used part: Splintered bark of stem.

(2) *Blumea eriantha* DC.

Local name: Kapur

Family: Asteraceae

It is a strong aromatic herb, flower heads with yellow florets in axillary and/or terminal, paniculate cyme.

Used part: Extract of fresh flowers.

(3) *Mentha piperita* Linn.

Local name: Peppermint

Family: Lamiaceae

It is an aromatic perennial herb.

Used part: Extract of fresh flowers.

Treatment: The oil is extracted from the fresh flowers of *Blumea eriantha* and *Mentha piperita*, and mixed in almost equal proportions. It is then massaged for about half an hour on the paralysed part. Later, the splintered bark of

Moringa concanensis is tied tightly on to the massaged part for about an hour. This treatment is very effective in giving relief from pain, enabling the patient to move the paralysed part freely. Many patients from Pune, Mumbai, Nasik (Maharashtra), Vadodara, Ahmedabad (Gujarat), and other parts of nearby states visit this place for Hemiplagia treatment.

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